



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

2018 ELECTION ADMINISTRATION, SECURITY, AND ELECTION REFORM PRELIMINARY SELECTED FREQUENCY REPORT

PRINCIPAL AUTHORS:

LONNA RAE ATKESON

*PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, DIRECTOR CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF VOTING, ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRACY, AND
DIRECTOR INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH, UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO*

&

WENDY HANSEN

PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

RESEARCH SCIENTIST:

DR. YURY BOSIN

GRADUATE STUDENTS:

ALEX ADAMS

JARED CLAY

FLORENT NKOUAGA

WEIDONG ZHANG

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS:

JUAN AVILA CAMPUZANO

ANASTASIYA ANDRIYASH

FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

NEW MEXICO SECRETARY OF STATE

1. How interested were you in the 2018 election? (n=6,909)

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Very interested | 85% |
| Somewhat interested | 1% |
| Not too interested | 14% |
| Not at all interested | 0% |

2. Thinking in political terms, would you say that you are: (n=6,897)

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Very liberal | 17% |
| Somewhat liberal | 19% |
| Moderate | 20% |
| Somewhat conservative | 19% |
| Very conservative | 18% |
| Haven't thought much about it | 4% |
| Don't know | 3% |

3. Do you consider yourself to be a Libertarian? (n=6,114)

| | |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 13% |
| No | 87% |

4. How confident are you that YOUR vote in the General Election was counted as you intended? (n=6,908)

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Very confident | 56% |
| Somewhat confident | 31% |
| Not too confident | 8% |
| Not at all confident | 5% |

5. Thinking about your county, state, and nation, how confident are you that all of the ballots were counted **as the voters intended**?

| | Very confident | Somewhat confident | Not too confident | Not at all confident | n |
|-------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------|
| Your county | 46% | 34% | 12% | 8% | 6,894 |
| Your state | 37% | 41% | 13% | 9% | 6,734 |
| Nationwide | 14% | 35% | 30% | 21% | 6,734 |

Election Security

6. How concerned are you about the possibility of cyber threats or hacking of New Mexico Elections?
(n=6907)

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Very concerned | 23% |
| Somewhat concerned | 40% |
| Not too concerned | 29% |
| Not at all concerned | 8% |

7. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements.

| | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree | n |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------|
| a. It is important to assure accurate voter rolls, even if some eligible voters are removed and required to re-register for future elections | 48% | 23% | 14% | 15% | 6,701 |
| b. Every state should have a post-election auditing process to ensure that votes were counted correctly | 67% | 25% | 5% | 3% | 6,738 |
| c. Poll workers are properly trained to handle illegitimate voters | 58% | 23% | 10% | 9% | 5,819 |
| d. It is important to me that there is a paper record of my vote | 64% | 23% | 8% | 5% | 6,655 |
| e. Eligible voters get mistakenly removed from the voter registration rolls during purges/clean-up. | 37% | 35% | 16% | 12% | 5,077 |

7. How much of a problem do you believe people breaking or hacking into the following is in your state and community?

| | A major problem | A problem, but not too major | A small problem | Not a problem at all | n |
|--|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------|
| a. People breaking or hacking into the computers that manage voter rolls to improperly alter those records. | 22% | 20% | 25% | 33% | 4,001 |
| b. People breaking or hacking into the voting equipment you might use to cast a ballot to change how votes are counted | 22% | 19% | 22% | 37% | 4,201 |
| c. People breaking or hacking into websites or computer systems of candidates to disrupt their campaigns. | 34% | 27% | 22% | 17% | 4,452 |

8. Which of the following situations did you personally observe in the 2018 General Election? [check all that apply] (n=6,916)

| | Yes |
|--|-----|
| Bribery or paying for votes | 2% |
| Someone being improperly denied the chance to vote | 4% |
| Intimidation at the polling place | 4% |
| Cheating in the counting of votes | 4% |
| Voting machines failing to record votes correctly | 4% |
| Someone using a false identity to vote illegally | 4% |

9. Have you ever personally witnessed what you believe to be election fraud? (n=6,889)

| | |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 8% |
| No | 92% |

10. Do you think election fraud has changed the outcome of any election in which you have participated? (n=6,901)

| | |
|------------|-----|
| Yes | 28% |
| No | 35% |
| Don't Know | 33% |

11. How much do you think Russia, China or other foreign powers influenced voters in the 2016 and 2018 elections?

| | A lot | Somewhat | Not too much | Not at all | n |
|-------------------------------|-------|----------|--------------|------------|-------|
| a. 2016 presidential election | 40% | 23% | 13% | 24% | 6,235 |
| b. 2018 midterm election | 10% | 31% | 29% | 30% | 5,537 |

12. How much have companies like Facebook and Twitter done to make sure there is no interference from a foreign country in this year's midterm election? (n=6904)

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| A great deal | 3% |
| A good amount | 10% |
| Not very much | 40% |
| Nothing at all | 17% |
| Don't Know | 30% |

13. Below is a list of possible illegal election activities that may or may not take place in YOUR COMMUNITY. Please tell me whether you think each event occurs:

| | All or most of the time | Some of the time | Not much | Never | Don't know | n |
|--|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| a. A voter casts more than one ballot. | 6% | 21% | 32% | 16% | 25% | 6,882 |
| b. Tampering with ballots to change votes. | 5% | 18% | 30% | 17% | 30% | 6,860 |
| c. Someone pretends to be another person and casts a vote for them. | 8% | 26% | 28% | 12% | 26% | 6,873 |
| d. A non-US Citizen votes. | 16% | 22% | 23% | 16% | 23% | 6,870 |
| e. Someone hacks into the vote tabulators and changes individuals votes. | 3% | 12% | 27% | 20% | 39% | 6,882 |
| f. The secretary of state or other state or local election official makes rules that favor one party or another. | 17% | 31% | 19% | 11% | 22% | 6,878 |

14. How likely or unlikely is it that the following situations happened in your state?

| | Very likely | Somewhat likely | Somewhat unlikely | Very unlikely | n |
|--|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------|-------|
| a. Bribery or paying for votes | 15% | 30% | 22% | 33% | 5,109 |
| b. Someone being improperly denied the chance to vote | 11% | 31% | 28% | 30% | 5,454 |
| c. Intimidation at the polling place | 8% | 19% | 27% | 46% | 5,442 |
| d. Voting machines failing to record votes correctly | 10% | 27% | 29% | 35% | 5,158 |
| e. Absentee voter mail fraud | 21% | 30% | 24% | 25% | 5,234 |

Absentee Voters

15, Overall, how easy or hard was it to follow all the instructions necessary to cast your ballot and return it to be counted? (n=643)

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Very easy | 76% |
| Somewhat easy | 20% |
| Somewhat hard | 4% |
| Very hard | 0% |

16. How concerned were you that your ballot would arrive at the County Clerk's office in time to be counted? (n=643)

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Very concerned | 11% |
| Somewhat concerned | 20% |
| Not too concerned | 32% |
| Not at all concerned | 37% |

17. Did you contact the County Clerk to determine if your ballot had been received? (n=639)

| | |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 12% |
| No | 88% |

18. Why did you vote absentee (% yes)? (n=701)

| | Yes |
|---|-----|
| a. Did not want to travel to a voting location. | 20% |
| b. Did not know where to vote. | 2% |
| c. Planned to be out of town. | 19% |
| d. Convenience of doing it in my home. | 51% |
| e. Had to work on Election Day. | 9% |
| f. Wanted to avoid lines. | 26% |
| g. Homebound/health. | 13% |
| h. Wanted time to study and complete ballot. | 39% |

19. Did you experience any of the following when you attempted to vote absentee in this general election?. (% yes)

| | Yes | n |
|---|-----|-----|
| a. I did not know how to obtain an absentee ballot | 6% | 555 |
| b. I had difficulty registering to vote | 2% | 526 |
| c. I had difficulty requesting an absentee ballot | 3% | 584 |
| d. My ballot did not arrive on time | 2% | 563 |
| f. I expected to receive a ballot automatically, but did not. | 5% | 505 |
| g. I was informed that there was a problem with my signature. | 1% | 557 |

20. Did you call or email the county clerk about the process of absentee voting? (n=641)

| | |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 26% |
| No | 74% |

21. Did the county clerk contact you regarding your ballot or other administrative issues? (n=640)

| | |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 7% |
| No | 93% |

22. [If yes in 21]Overall, how satisfied were you with your interactions with the county clerk? (n=174)

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Very satisfied | 78% |
| Somewhat satisfied | 17% |
| Not very satisfied | 1% |
| Not at all satisfied | 4% |

Your Voting Experience

23. How would you rate your voting experience overall? (n=6780)

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| Excellent | 54% |
| Good | 37% |
| Fair | 7% |
| Poor | 3% |

24. Did you visit the Secretary of State's website at any time prior to the election? (n=6765)

| | |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 62% |
| No | 38% |

25. [If yes in 24,] Why did you visit the Secretary of State's website? (n=672)

| | |
|--|-----|
| Register to vote | 6% |
| Check or update my voter registration | 49% |
| Find information about my county clerk | 13% |
| Request an absentee ballot | 7% |
| Something else: | 25% |

26. [If yes in 24,] How easy or hard was it to find what you were looking for on the secretary of state's website? (n=2,591)

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Very easy | 3% |
| Somewhat easy | 10% |
| Somewhat hard | 42% |
| Very hard | 45% |

Early and Election Day Voters

27. How long was the voting line when you got to your polling location? (n=6,011)

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Very long | 4% |
| Somewhat long | 8% |
| Not very long | 26% |
| Not long at all | 62% |

28. Did you consider the overall wait time at the vote center to be: (n=6,006)

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| No wait time | 54% |
| Short wait time | 36% |
| Moderate wait time | 8% |
| Long wait time | 2% |

29. About how many minutes did you wait in line before you were able to vote? _____ Minutes
(n=5,500)

| Minutes | Early | Election Day |
|------------------|-----------|--------------|
| 0 Minutes | 29% | 23% |
| 1-5 Minutes | 51% | 42% |
| 6-10 Minutes | 10% | 16% |
| 11-15 Minutes | 5% | 7% |
| 16-20 Minutes | 2% | 5% |
| 21-40 Minutes | 2% | 5% |
| 40-120 Minutes | 1% | 3% |
| Average | 5 minutes | 8 minutes |
| Average combined | 6 minutes | |

30. In New Mexico, the voter gets to choose how they want to be identified at the polls. They can provide (1) their name, address, and birth year, (2) a photo ID, or (3) a non-photo ID. What type of identification did you provide? (n=5,992)

| | |
|---|-----|
| Name, address, and birth year | 48% |
| A photo id (driver's license, military ID or passport) | 38% |
| A non-photo ID (e.g. utility bill) | 1% |
| I didn't provide any sort of ID the poll worker knew me | 3% |
| Registration card/County Bar Code | 8% |
| Name only | 1% |
| Name and address | 1% |

31. [If yes in 30] Thinking back, did your poll worker ask for a photo or non-photo ID or did you just provide it to them without being asked? (n=1,656)

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Poll worker asked for the ID | 30% |
| I just provided it to the poll worker | 59% |
| I Don't remember | 11% |

32. How many contests did you vote on your 2018 ballot? (n=6,672)

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| All of the contests | 73% |
| Nearly all of the contests | 18% |
| Most of the contests | 5% |
| About 1/2 of the contests | 2% |
| Just a few contests | 1% |
| No contests; I voted a protest ballot | 1% |

33. Please mark how much you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the voting location where you voted:

| | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Agree | Strongly agree | n |
|---|-------------------|----------|-------|----------------|-------|
| a.The location was easy to find | 1% | 1% | 19% | 79% | 5,966 |
| b.I had to go far out of my way to vote | 67% | 28% | 4% | 1% | 5,919 |
| c.It was hard to find a place to park | 59% | 32% | 6% | 3% | 5,913 |
| d.The poll workers were helpful | 1% | 2% | 35% | 62% | 5,921 |
| e.My ballot privacy was protected | 1% | 3% | 36% | 60% | 5,931 |
| f.The ballot was too long | 24% | 55% | 17% | 4% | 5,912 |

Thinking About Politics

34. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a: (n=6,680)

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Strong Democrat | 29% |
| Democrat-not so strong | 11% |
| Independent-closer to Democrats | 11% |
| Independent | 11% |
| Independent-closer to Republicans | 7% |
| Republican-not so strong | 7% |
| Strong Republican | 19% |
| Other: | 5% |

Thinking about Politics: Election Reforms

35. Which is more important? (n=6,376)

| | |
|--|-----|
| Ensuring that everyone who is eligible has the right to vote | 58% |
| Protecting the voting system against fraud | 39% |
| Don't know | 3% |

36. New Mexico's voter ID law requires voters to state their address, name, and birth year. Do you think the minimum identification is? (n=6,374)

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Too strict | 3% |
| Just right | 50% |
| Not strict enough | 47% |

37. How would you feel if you had a son or daughter who married someone who is in the opposite political party as you? (n=6,319)

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Very upset | 3% |
| somewhat upset | 13% |
| not too upset | 27% |
| not at all upset | 57% |

38. How do you think we should elect the President: should it be the candidate who gets the most votes in all 50 states, or the current electoral college system? (n=6,318)

| | |
|--|-----|
| The candidate who gets the most votes in all 50 states | 63% |
| The current Electoral College system | 37% |

39. Please mark how much you agree or disagree with the following election reforms.

| | Strongly agree | Somewhat Agree | Somewhat Disagree | Strongly disagree | n |
|--|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------|
| a. Primary elections should be open to all voters, not just those registered as Democrat or Republican. | 55% | 20% | 11% | 14% | 6,295 |
| b. New Mexico should move to all mail elections. | 6% | 12% | 29% | 53% | 6,252 |
| c. Photo identification should be required of each voter at the polls. | 50% | 19% | 15% | 16% | 6,303 |
| d. An independent redistricting commission should be created to determine district boundaries after the 2020 census. | 44% | 39% | 11% | 6% | 6,182 |
| e. Voters should be able to register on Election Day. | 29% | 20% | 22% | 29% | 6,280 |
| f. Eligible voters should be automatically registered to vote through their state DMV or other state agencies. | 40% | 27% | 14% | 19% | 6,282 |
| g. I would like to see a straight party option on the ballot to make it easier to vote. | 23% | 24% | 22% | 31% | 6,252 |

40. After the 2020 census, NM will have to reapportion its districts to ensure equal representation. Which of the following statements come closest to your view? (n=6,275)

| | |
|---|-----|
| They should create electoral districts that hold communities together even if it means that one party will dominate. | 25% |
| They should create electoral districts where there is close competition between the two parties, even if it means that communities will be disconnected | 35% |
| Don't know | 40% |

41. Ranked choice voting or instant run-off is an election reform allows voter to rank candidates for their favorite to least favorite. Do you think: (n=5,909)

| | |
|---|-----|
| Ranked Choice voting should be used and winners should receive the majority of the votes | 51% |
| The candidate with the most votes, but not necessarily a majority of the votes should win | 49% |

42. Generally speaking, do you think New Mexico's elected officials are more responsive to campaign donors or voters? (n=6,172)

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Donors | 70% |
| Both equally | 25% |
| Voters | 5% |

43. Public financing provides a fixed amount of money to fund qualified candidate campaigns. Please mark how much you agree or disagree with the following statements.

| | Strongly agree | Somewhat Agree | Somewhat Disagree | Strongly disagree | n |
|--|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------|
| a. I pay attention to whether a candidate is publicly or privately financed. | 31% | 47% | 16% | 6% | 6,187 |
| b. I would support public financing even if some of the funding might go to candidates I don't agree with. | 26% | 37% | 18% | 19% | 6,145 |
| c. Public financing would allow people like me to run for office. | 23% | 44% | 19% | 14% | 6,029 |
| d. All elected offices should be eligible to receive public financing | 25% | 40% | 17% | 18% | 6,075 |

44. Which level of government has the main responsibility for making sure election are safe and secure? (n=6,209)

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Federal government | 31% |
| State government | 48% |
| Local government | 22% |

Thinking about politics: Political Efficacy and Trust

45. In your view, how often do the following things occur in election in the US? (n=)

| | All of the time | Most of the time | About half the time | Some of the time | Never | n |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------|-------|
| a. Votes are counted accurately | 6% | 66% | 10% | 14% | 4% | 6,192 |
| b. Journalists provide fair coverage of candidates | 4% | 29% | 16% | 29% | 22% | 6,193 |
| c. Election officials are fair | 6% | 56% | 15% | 19% | 4% | 6,154 |
| d. Foreign governments try to influence voters | 14% | 20% | 12% | 47% | 7% | 6,161 |
| e. Rich people buy elections | 23% | 27% | 15% | 30% | 5% | 6,150 |
| f. Voters are offered a genuine choice at the ballot box | 10% | 37% | 21% | 26% | 6% | 6,166 |

46. How much do you think you can trust the municipal, county, state or federal government to do what is right? (n=)

| | Always | Most of the time | About half the time | Some of the time | Never | n |
|----------------|--------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------|-------|
| Municipal/City | 2% | 45% | 25% | 22% | 6% | 6,164 |
| County | 2% | 44% | 26% | 23% | 5% | 6,134 |
| State | 2% | 32% | 33% | 27% | 6% | 6,138 |
| Federal | 1% | 19% | 26% | 44% | 10% | 6,148 |

The following information is for statistical purposes only

47. Are you? (n=6,870)

| | |
|--------|-----|
| Male | 55% |
| Female | 45% |

48. Respondent age? (n=6,883)

| | |
|------------|-----|
| 18 thru 30 | 10% |
| 31 thru 45 | 18% |
| 46 thru 55 | 16% |
| 56-65 | 24% |
| Over 65 | 33% |

40. What is the highest grade of education you have completed? (n=6,218)

| | |
|--|-----|
| Less than a High School degree | 1% |
| High School degree | 7% |
| Some college | 19% |
| Completed trade school/associates degree | 12% |
| College degree | 30% |
| Master's degree | 22% |
| JD/MD/PhD | 9% |

50. Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish origin? (n=6,885)

| | |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 28% |
| No | 62% |

51. [if Hispanic/Latino,] Would you describe your Hispanic/Latino origin as? (n=1,377)

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Mexican | 36% |
| Spanish | 47% |
| Puerto Rican | 2% |
| Central American | 2% |
| Mixed Hispanic | 3% |
| Mixed Hispanic/Native American | 2% |
| Central American | 2% |
| Something else | 15% |
| Don't know | 1% |

52. What racial or ethnic group best describes you? (n=5958)

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Black/African American | 1% |
| Native American/American Indian | 3% |
| Hispanic/Latino | 28% |
| Asian American | 1% |
| White/Anglo | 65% |
| Two or more | 2% |

53. What is your current marital status? (n=6,258)

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Married | 53% |
| Living with a partner | 6% |
| Divorced | 16% |
| Widowed | 5% |
| Single | 18% |
| Separated | 1% |

2018 Election Administration, Security, and Election Reform Survey Methodology

The 2018 New Mexico Election Administration, Security and Reform Frequency Report was based on a probability and nonprobability sample. The probability sample consisted of 15,000 2018 voters. The non-probability sample was sent to 53,000 voters who included emails with their voter registration. The data on voters were obtained from the New Mexico Secretary of State's office days after the election.

Survey questions asked about their election experience (voter confidence, voting problems, method of voting, experience with poll workers, experience with the ballot, *etc.*), their attitudes toward possible election reforms including voter record purging, fraud, voter access, voter identification, enfranchising 16 and 17 year olds, same day registration, *etc.* as well as other political attitudes and behaviors including evaluations of the President, the congressional candidates and their local and state election administrators. They were also asked several questions related to the statewide contests (vote choice, candidate evaluation, candidate ideology, *etc.*) and a variety of demographic information.

Our probability sampling method used a mixed mode design. All 15,000 sample members were sent first class postcards on November 12th, 2018 requesting their participation in our survey. The postcard provided sample respondents with a URL (vote2018.unm.edu) that directed them to the survey. Sampled voters who did not respond were re-contacted up to two times with an additional postcard. The second postcard was sent November 27th and the third was sent December 13th. For a 2000 person subgroup of hard-to-reach respondents instead of sending out a 3rd reminder postcard, on December 17, we sent out a letter, survey, and return addressed postage paid envelope requesting their participation.

A total of 1,781 sample members from our probability sample responded to our request. The response rate is 11.7% using Response Rate 2 (RR2) calculations, as defined by the American Association for Public Opinion Research. It is important to note that this is the minimum response rate and includes all sample members whom we tried to contact, regardless of whether or not we were able to contact them. A large number of postcards were returned undeliverable. After the first contact, sample members with emails were contacted both with a reminder postcard and a reminder email.

The nonprobability sample was contacted via email with a link that connected them to the survey. Respondents were contacted three times. They were contacted on December 4, December 12 and December 18. Thank you notes were sent to respondents on December 27.

A total of 5,135 sample respondent from our nonprobability sample responded to our request for a response rate of 9.7%. Again, this represents the minimum response rate and includes all sample members whom we tried to contact, regardless of whether or not we were able to contact them.

The data were weighted using a raking procedure based upon the following characteristics: age, sex, vote mode (early, absentee, Election Day), county, party and vote for governor. Data from the voter file and the election outcomes furnished the data for the characteristics of the population.